Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00870 281303Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 064676
P R 281217Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8357
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BEIRUT 0870

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

1. WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS IN LAST FEW DAYS ON GALLAGHER AND DYKES. INFORMANT B TOLD US PALESTINIAN REPS ON HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL SUPPORT ANY REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF THE MEN BUT FELT PLO LEADERSHIP IS RELUCTANT TO PUSH REJECTIONISTS ON THIS MATTER IN VIEW OF ACCUSATIONS THAT IT PLAYING A PRO-AMERICAN GAME. INFORMANT B THOUGHT JUMBLATT AS LEADER OF LEBANESE LEFT WOULD BE THE ONE THAT COULD GET MOST MILEAGE OUT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THIS. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR RAISED MATTER WITH ABBAS KHALAF, JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY IN PSP PARTY. KHALAF AGREED TO BRING MATTER TO JUMBLATT'S ATTENTION BUT SOMEWHAT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY SAID HE THOUGHT MORE PROMISING AVENUE WAS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY BETWEEN PFLP REPS AND SURETE GENERAL DIRECTOR, COL. DAHDAH. KHALAF REFUSED TO TAKE A LETTER FOR DYKES FROM HIS FAMILY, SUGGESTING COL. DAHDAH WOULD BE THE PROPER CHANNEL.

2. COL. DAHDAH WAS APPROACHED BY DEFATT AND TOLD US PFLP WAS DEMANDING RELEASE OF ARMS SEIZED FROM THEM PRIOR TO RELEASING GALLAGHER AND DYKES. AFTER TELPHONIC CON-
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00870 281303Z

SULTATION WITH LEBANESE ARMY G-2 COL. JULES BOUSTANY, DAHDAH SAID RELEASE OF SUCH ARMS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE FORMAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

APPROVAL OF DEVENSE MINISTER KARAME. DAHDAH AGREED TO PASS
TO PFLP LETTER FOR DYKES FROM HIS FAMILY.

3. SIMULTANEOUSLY, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR
PASSED MESSAGE THROUGH PROMINENT SHIA LAWYER MOHSEN SLIM, AN
INTIMATE OF KARAME'S, TO KARAME URGING THAT EVERY EFFORT
BE MADE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES IN CONTEXT
OF CURRENT AGREEMENT. THAT MESSAGE IS TO BE PASSED BY
MOHSEN SLIM TO KARAME TODAY.

4. CONCURRENTLY I CALLED ON NEW ALGERIAN CHARGE IN
ABSENCE OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR YAZID, WHO ONCE OFFERED
TO BE HELPFUL ON GALLAGHER AND DYKES BUT IS PRESENTLY
OUT OF THE COUNTRY. CHARGE HIMSELF ASKED ABOUT STATUS
OF OUR TWO MEN. I FILLED HIM IN BRIEFLY AND HE VOLUNTEERED
TO TALK TOOSOME OF HIS FRIENDS. FROM WHAT HE SAID, IT
WOULD APPEAR THESE WOULD INCLUDE PRINCIPAL DEPUTIES TO
GEORGE HABASH. HE SAID HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH
ME EARLY PART NEXT WEEK.

5. DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY AWARE THAT SIMILAR MESSAGE WAS
PASSED BY EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO SYRIAN GENERAL SHEHABI
(DAMASCUS 0420). DEFATT ALSO SAW BRIG GEN MOUSSA
KANAAN, SENIOR LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE ON HIGH MILITARY
COMMITTEE, JAN 24, URGING MEN'S RELEASE. WE SHALL
CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR RELEASE IN ATMOSPHERE OF
CURRENT CEASEFIRE AS OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOP.
LAMBRAKIS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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